## In the Claims

1.–28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven fabric, containing ultra-fine fibers and does not contain an elastomer, which contains staple fibers with a fiber fineness of 0.0001 to 0.5 decitex and a fiber length of 2 cm to 10 cm and at least substantially all of the ultra-fine fibers are uniformly entangled with each other in the thickness direction, and has a weight per unit area of 100 to 550 g/m$^2$, an apparent density of 0.280 to 0.700 g/cm$^3$, a tensile strength of 70 N/cm or more, a 10% modulus in the length direction is 8 N/cm or more and a tear strength of 3 to 50 N.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 29, wherein said staple fibers are polyester-based fibers and/or polyamide-based fibers.

33. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a nonwoven fabric containing ultra-fine fibers as set forth in claim 29, comprising:

needle-punching islands-in-sea type composite fibers of 1 to 10 decitex convertible into bundles of ultra-fine fibers of 0.0001 to 0.5 decitex at a punching density of 500 needles/cm$^2$ or more, to produce a nonwoven fabric containing composite fibers,

removing the sea component of the composite fibers to produce the ultra-fine fibers and

performing hydro-entanglement at a pressure of at least 10 MPa after forming at least substantially all of the ultra-fine fibers to produce a nonwoven fabric which does not contain an elastomer.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the nonwoven fabric containing composite fibers produced by said needle punching has an apparent density of 0.120 to 0.300 g/cm$^3$.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein a nozzle having holes with a diameter of 0.06 to 0.15 mm is used to perform said hydro-entanglement.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein a treatment for forming ultra-fine fibers is performed after performing said needle punching of the composite fibers, and before performing said hydro-entanglement and/or simultaneously with said hydro-entanglement.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein splitting into two or more sheets perpendicularly to the thickness direction is performed before performing said hydro-entanglement.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein pressing to 0.1 to 0.8 times in thickness is performed after performing said hydro-entanglement.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) An artificial leather sheet which contains a dyed nonwoven fabric containing ultra-fine fibers with a fiber fineness of 0.0001 to 0.5 decitex, a fiber length of 2 cm to 10 cm, and at least substantially all of the ultra-fine fibers are uniformly entangled with each other in the thickness direction, a weight per unit area of 100 to 550 $g/m^2$ and an apparent density of 0.230 to 0.700 $g/cm^3$, a tensile strength of 70 N/cm or more, and has a tear strength of 3 to 50 N and satisfies the following formula:

Tensile strength (N/cm) $\geq 0.45 \times$ Weight per unit area ($g/m^2$) $- 40$; and which does not contain an elastomer.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The artificial leather sheet according to claim 40, wherein the ultra-fine fibers are made of a non-elastic polymer.

43. (Currently Amended) The artificial leather sheet according to claim 40, wherein it is raised by sand paper or brush at least on one surface.

44. (Previously Presented) The artificial leather sheet according to claim 40, wherein, in an abrasion test by the Martindale method, the abrasion loss after 20000 times of abrasion is 20 mg or less and the number of pills is 5 or less.

45. (Previously Presented) The artificial leather according to claim 40, wherein said ultra-fine fibers are made of a polyester and/or a polyamide.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously Presented) The artificial leather according to claim 40, containing fine particles.

48. (Previously Presented) The artificial leather according to claim 47, wherein the particle diameter of said fine particles is from 0.001 to 30 μm.